

**REMARKS**

In supplement to the remarks set forth in the Amendment filed October 31, 2006, Applicants submit that precoating a filter aid on a coarse-mesh support to form layers for filtering and body-feeding the filter aid into the cellulose acylate solution are important in the present invention as described below.

A cellulose acylate solution for preparing cellulose acylate film by a solution film-forming method is a solution having high viscosity. Consequently, when filter paper, filter cloth, sintered metal or the like is used as a filtering material for the filtration as disclosed in the conventional technique (see the "Description of the Related Art" in the present application), in any of these filtering materials, pores of the filtering material may be plugged with time, causing a sudden increase of pressure difference in the latter half of the filtration. Therefore, if filter paper, filter cloth, sintered metal or the like is used as a filtering material for the filtration, the life of filtration cannot be extended. Rather, it will be reduced in such a case.

To solve such problems, the present invention has a feature that by precoating a filter aid on a coarse-mesh support and body-feeding the filter aid into the cellulose acylate solution, even for a cellulose acylate solution having high viscosity, the life of filtration can be extended while keeping high absolute filtration accuracy.

Thus, Applicants submit that the present invention is not obvious, and withdrawal of the obviousness rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c)  
U.S. Application No. 10/620,412

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Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

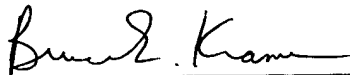
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